

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

- ☐ 385 North Arrowhead Avenue - San Bernardino, CA 92415-0160 - (909) 884-4056
- ☐ 1647 East Holt Boulevard - Ontario, CA 91761 - (909) 458-9673
- ☐ 13911 Park Avenue - Victorville, CA 92392 - (760) 243-3773
- ☐ San Bernardino County Vector Control Program
2355 East 5th Street - San Bernardino, CA 92415-0064 - (909) 388-4600

JAMES A. FELTEN, MPA
Public Health Director

ERIC K. FRYKMAN, MD, MPH, MBA
Health Officer

DANIEL J. AVERA, REHS
Chief of Environmental Health

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Contact: **Terri Williams, REHS**
Program Manager
(909) 387-4692

California State Department of Health Warns Consumers

Not to Eat Two Brands of Lead-contaminated Candy from Mexico

Based on tests conducted by the California Department of Health Services (CDHS), two candy products imported from Mexico may contain high levels of lead that could cause serious health problems, Interim State Public Health Officer Dr. Howard Backer warned. Consumers, particularly infants, young children and pregnant women, should not eat **Dulmex Tollito De Tamarindo**, a tamarind candy, and **Vero Vagabundo**, a hard candy lollipop with a chili dipping powder.

Recent analysis of Dulmex Rollito de Tamarindo candy by CDHS identified that the candy may contain as much as 0.59 micrograms of lead per gram of product, parts per million. Similar analysis of Vero Vagabundo candy revealed that the powder portion of the candy might contain as much as 0.72 micrograms of lead per gram of product. The U. S. Food and Drug Administration and CDHS have alerted consumers and taken enforcement actions against candies exceeding 0.5 micrograms of lead per gram of product.

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Pregnant women and parents of children who may have consumed these products should consult with their physician to determine if further medical testing is warranted. Lead is toxic to humans, especially infants, young children and developing fetuses. For more information about lead poisoning, parents should contact the San Bernardino County Child and Adolescent Health program at 1-800-722-3777.

San Bernardino County Environmental Health Services (EHS) inspectors will immediately begin ordering the removal of the candy from distribution centers, retail stores and other sources such as ice cream trucks and swap meets.

Consumers in possession of either of these candies should dispose of the product. The public is encouraged to report any sellers of the candy by calling the CDHS hotline at 1-800-495-3232.

MARK H. UFFER
County Administrative Officer

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